

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 L-02 COME-00 TRSE-00

RSC-01 /022 W

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R 031641Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8962

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 0032

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, HO

SUBJECT: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: STATE 282971

1. ON JANUARY 2 EMBOFF INFORMED HONDURAN MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, EDGARDO ESCOTO, OF CONTENTS REFTEL. ESCOTO SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONVENE GROUP OF NATION'S PRINCIPAL MEAT EXPORTERS TO INFORM THEM OF VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRAINT PROPOSAL AND GATHER AND STUDY THEIR OPINIONS OF IMPACT ON THAT INDUSTRY AND ON ECONOMY AS WHOLE. MINISTER SAID HONDURAS PLANNED TO EXPORT ABOUT 35 MILLION POUNDS OF MEAT TO U.S. IN 1975. HE BELIEVED THAT PROPOSED LIMITATION TO 27.8 MILLION POUNDS WOULD CAUSE ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC HARDSHIP TO HURRICANE-DAMAGED HONDURAN ECONOMY. ESCOTO HOPED TO CONVENE MEAT EXPORTERS WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS AND PRESENT OFFICIAL GOH POSITION BY JANUARY 15. EMBASSY WILL REPORT RESULTS AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE.

2. COMMENT: ESCOTS'S PROJECTED 1975 MEAT EXPORT FIGURE OF 35 MILLION POUNDS AT VARIANCE WITH 22.9 MILLION POUND FIGURE PUBLISHED BY HONDURAN CENTRAL BANK IN OCTOBER 1974. ESCOTO EXPLAINED THAT CENTRAL BANK PROJECTION BASED ON ERRONEOUS PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF CATTLE LOSSES RESULTING FROM HURRICANE. FURTHERMORE, ESCOTO SAID MANY HONDURAN STOCKMEN HELD CATTLE OFF MARKET IN 1974 BECAUSE OF LOW WORLD PRICES AND
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WERE COUNTING HEAVILY ON A BETTER MARKET IN 1975. END COMMENT.

SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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